

APPLICANT(S): KRAUSZ, Eliezer et al.
SERIAL NO.: 10/720,523
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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-4 are pending in the application.

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected.

Claims 3 and 4 have been objected to.

Claims 1,3 and 4 have been amended in this submission. Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims add no new matter.

Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In making this cancellation without prejudice, Applicants reserve all rights in these claims to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications.

Claim Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 3 and 4 based on improper multiple dependent form. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the objection.

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CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Bemis. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the remarks that follow.

Bemis discloses devices for coupling the sections of pneumatic tubes that make air-tight joints and are easily removable. Bemis does not disclose either a flexible inner sleeve or metallic fasteners being arranged to contact said metallic pipes when said assembly is tightened, to form a continuous electrical connection of the pipes.

In the Office Action, the Examiner further rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by McDowell. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the remarks that follow.

McDowell discloses a grounding strip that may be a flat, electrically conductive metal strip, the major portion of whose length extends the full length of the coupling joint and is disposed between the first metal sleeve element and the elastomeric sleeve element. The ends of the grounding strip are turned over onto the ends of the elastomeric sleeve element. McDowell does not disclose metallic fasteners penetrating the flexible inner sleeve.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that amended independent claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record. Claims 3 and 4 depend from, directly or indirectly, claim 1, and therefore include all the limitations of this claim. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 3 and 4 are likewise allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to amended independent claim 1 and to claims 3 and 4 dependent thereon.

The Examiner rejected claim 2 based on prior art; however, the claim has been cancelled. Accordingly, the rejection is moot.

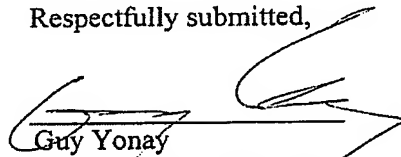
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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 05-0649.

Respectfully submitted,


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